

Sevier County

Local Planning Summary

Prepared for the:
**Dixie, Fishlake & Manti-La Sal National Forests
Forest Plan Revision
Social and Economic Assessment**



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SEVIER COUNTY GENERAL PLAN, 1998
&
ZONING ORDINANCE

<p>Summary & Key Issues</p>	<p>Sevier County is the gateway to eight National Parks, Monuments, and attractions throughout southern Utah. Preserving, protecting, and promoting increased use of recreational resources in Sevier Co is a fundamental policy of their General Plan because they affect local businesses more than any other factor. The County is considered a major transportation hub because of its highways and trailheads. One of the recommendations is to encourage a multiple-use philosophy.</p>
<p>Historical Abstract</p>	<p>The culture of Sevier County is deeply rooted in the land and in the County's natural assets. From the earliest days of settlement, agriculture, including livestock, poultry, and crop production were predominating influences in the lives of County residents.</p>
<p>Economic Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 1996, Sevier County had the fourth largest inventory of cattle in Utah, (p.2-2). • Commercial grazing is very important to the economy and heritage of Sevier County, (p.3-10). • "Sevier County should support the current PRIA formula for determining AUM costs for grazing in public lands", (p.3-10). • "Preserving, protecting, and promoting increased use of recreational resources in Sevier Co is a fundamental policy of this Plan", (p.4-9). • "Recreational activities, natural attractions, and special events affect businesses more than any other factor(s)," (p.5-12). • The Richfield City Airport Manager annually tabulates aircraft operations. In 1996, the total documented number of landings and takeoffs was 5,896 (p.9-12).

Environmental Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Average annual rainfall is 8.57", and the growing season is relatively short (mid-May to late-Sept), (p.2-2). • The groundwater system in the Central Sevier Valley basin is recharged primarily by streams, ditches, and irrigated fields, (3-13). • Surface waters are fully appropriated during most years, and in 1997, the ground waters were closed to all new appropriations, (p.3-18). • "Much of the favorable comment from visitors seems to stem from the County's efficient transportation system", (p.9-7). • The agricultural trails in the County are of historic and contemporary importance to many land owners and residents. The routes have remained largely the same since the time Sevier County was first settled, (p.9-14).
Social & Cultural Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Preserving agricultural lands, agricultural uses, critical lands, and open space is of primary importance in Sevier County", (p.2-7). • Policy to preserve rural environment and lifestyle, (p.2-11). • "Hunting and fishing are integral parts of the culture and lifestyle in Sevier County. At certain times of the year virtually all of the economy of Sevier County is focused on hunting, fishing, and related seasonal activities," (p.3-7).
Tribal-Specific Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Koosharem Indian Tribe controls 1,600 acres, (p.3-2). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Tribe controls three separate parcels.
Forest-Specific Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sevier County wants to ensure that the Piute ATV trail system remains intact, (p.3-6 & 9-15). • Mountain biking is a growing sport in the County, (p.9-15).

<p>Public Lands Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The County shall prohibit the building of residential dwellings or recreational cabins on sensitive lands and water shed areas”, (p.2-7) • 77% of land in the County is publicly owned, (p.3-3). • “[Federal] agencies must balance grazing versus the special interest of hunters and revenue from the permits for wildlife”, (p.3-7). • The County has established three “Grazing, Recreation, and Forestry” zones for land that is used for grazing, recreational (mountains / canyons), forestry, and wildlife purposes, (p.z-17). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 40-, 20-, and 5-units per acre. ○ Cluster development patterns are encouraged.
<p>Regional Demographic Issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The County discourages residential development outside of incorporated areas, (p.2-4). • In 1994, 55% of Utah’s net in-migration was attributable to non-metropolitan counties. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Utah Small Cities, Inc” projects high population growth rates for counties adjacent to the Wasatch Front, [Sevier may see similar rates], (2-13). • The County is a (roadway) major transportation hub (I-15 & I-70), (p.3-1). • The County experienced a 6% growth rate in the mid-1990’s, (p.4-3).

SEVIER COUNTY STRATEGIC PLAN for ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
&
SITUATION ANALYSIS (from the County website found at sevierutah.net)

Summary & Key Issues	Sevier County is becoming more attractive for residential and economic growth, and the EDC recognizes the need to communicate, organize, and prepare in ways that will ensure smart growth that reflects their values. The County wants to preserve the rural lifestyle and utilize their natural resources as an economic development tool.
Historical Abstract	The Sevier County Economic Development Council (EDC) is a consortium of private businesses, public sector organizations, and individuals who have an interest in business growth. Representatives from industries such as banking, manufacturing, real estate, construction, engineering, retail, and government created a forum to discuss, debate, and work to implement a plan, (p.5).
Economic Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local economy is based on: Government, Tourism, Retail Trade, Public Utilities, Transportation, Construction, Mining (coal, salt, gypsum), Aspen Harvesting, Agriculture, (<i>sevierutah.net</i>). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Largest employers include: Sevier School District, Federal Government, State of Utah, Canyon Fuels Company, Moroni Feed, Albertsons Food Store, Richfield City, IHC Sevier Valley Hospital, Sevier County, Barney Trucking
Social & Cultural Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “We recognize the wonderful circumstances we know and enjoy and look for ways to balance business growth with preserving lifestyle options. We recognize the environment as a major component of our lifestyle and the need to act as a steward of natural resources to protect rural lifestyles”, (p.5).
Public Lands Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Utilize natural resources as an economic development tool”, (p.3).

SIX COUNTY ASSOCIATION of GOVERNMENTS
Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, 2000

<p>Summary & Key Issues</p>	<p>The Six County AOG attempts to coordinate economic development efforts with the Six County Economic Development District, and this Plan is their comprehensive strategy. Population is expected to grow in each County. The government services sector is the largest employer in the Region. Tourism/trade is the fastest growing industry, and is expected to provide the greatest number of new job opportunities. One of the primary goals is to maintain coordination between agencies, and another is to assist Native Americans with their economic development efforts.</p>
<p>Historical Abstract</p>	<p>The Six County Economic Development District (SCEDD) was formed through inter-local agreements by Juab, Millard, Piute, Sanpete, Sevier, and Wayne Counties. The Plan was guided by the “CEDS 2000 Steering Committee”. This advisory group comprises elected officials, special interest representation, education, business, labor, industry, agriculture, minority groups, community organizations, unemployment and underemployment.</p>
<p>Economic Values</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government services sector is the largest employer in the Six County Region, (p.8). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Employment in this sector includes public lands management, education, public health and safety, parks and recreation, law enforcement. ○ This sector is vital to the area’s economy as higher level salaries are provided. • Tourism/trade is the fastest growing industry within the region. Unlike other major industries within the area, tourism related businesses have experienced significant growth and are expected to provide the greatest number of new job opportunities, (p.8).

Tribal-Specific Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal #2: “conduct and support a reliable and integrated planning in cooperation with all agencies”, (p.15). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One of the objectives is to “maintain communications with county, community, tribal and other agency planning officials”, and ○ Provide technical assistance to counties, communities, and tribal bands in general planning, including development planning, (p.16). • Goal #6: “assist minority and ethnic populations in achieving their economic development goals and objectives”, (p.20). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assist Native Americans within the region with their community and economic development efforts, in coordination with other community agencies in order to create a comprehensive plan, (p.20).
Forest-Specific Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USFS was a member of the Steering Committee, (p.2).
Public Lands Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Goal #4: “encourage and identify opportunities to develop more efficient use of natural resources”, (p.19). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “Coordinate natural resource development with public land managers to foster multiple-use of public lands”.
Regional Demographic Issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Plan predicts that population in all six counties will grow through 2050, (p.6). • Unemployment has been consistently greater in the region when compared with the State and Nation, (p.7). • Currently, public lands dominate with BLM and USFS controlling 72 percent of the total acreage. Private ownership equals only 15 percent. State and other interests control 13 percent, (p.11). • Presently the elected officials directing the economic development efforts of the Region are most interested in the development of industry that will utilize the area’s natural resources, enhance the standard of living, and create family sustaining jobs, (p.12).